

REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF VISITORS
OF THE

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE,
LEXINGTON, 1848.

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE,
July 4th, 1848.

His Excellency WM. SMITH,
Governor of Virginia.

The regular annual meeting of the board of visitors of the Virginia military institute commenced at the institution on the 22d day of June, and terminated on the 4th day of July ensuing. They entered upon their duties by examining the condition of the buildings, inspecting the quarters of the cadets, the arsenal, the mess hall, and the buildings and property generally connected with and belonging to the institute. The general appearance of the buildings and grounds, under all the circumstances, exhibit great care and attention to neatness and comfort, and a strict regard for the preservation of the property and of the public arms confided to the care and diligence of this *normal* institution. Instead of confiding the public arms to a hired soldiery, the state has substituted the defence and protection of her sons, educated in sentiments of intelligent patriotism and public virtue. The state has made a successful experiment: she has substituted the educated and intelligent student, taken, in all cases, from among her own children, and made them the guardian of her means of defence; and by educating them, and by sending them forth as instructors throughout the commonwealth, she has made even the means of defence less necessary. The moral power of an intelligent and disciplined corps of young men, annually sent forth to mix in the affairs of society, will exercise the greatest influence in maintaining respect abroad and peace at home. Young men who are educated in a strong moral sense of the duties of patriotism will never desert the standard of the commonwealth, nor see its flag trailed in the dust; and educated for usefulness and trained to virtue, their influence on all the relations of society must be beneficent.

Such, in the opinion of this board, is the character of this institute and such the results which manifest themselves in no equivocal manner flowing from its discipline and system of education. This source of learning was substituted for the common duties of a public guard. The building, which for many years had been used by this guard, was converted into apartments for the cadets of the institute. The institute itself has been in operation for more than nine years; the building has been enlarged from time to time; it has had new stories elevated upon old walls, and temporary constructions added with many disadvantages to the buildings already erected, excluding proper light and ventilation; and more than all, not admitting of that police and discipline necessary to the perfection of the system so auspiciously commenced. The expense of these additional buildings, and the outlay which has been necessary to keep the whole in habitable repair have been met by the funds of the institute, and not by the state. The thorough repair of the various buildings has become a matter of necessity, and it is submitted whether the truest considerations of public economy will direct a permanent and substantial repair, or the erection of new buildings adapted to the wants of the institute and its system of education. If the former shall be determined upon, it should be executed thoroughly and without delay; if the latter, an annual appropriation extending over several years should be made, and the work speedily commenced and steadily prosecuted to its accomplishment. A majority of the board recommend the latter mode for adoption.

The examination of the cadets in their several classes, has occupied the board the greater part of the time, requiring their attention every day for more than a week. Instead of two classes, with which the institute commenced its operations, there are now four classes; and the number of students has increased from twenty state and ten pay cadets, to twenty-seven state and an average of seventy-five or eighty pay cadets; and the number and variety of studies afford full employment for the whole term of the cadets, and occupy the unremitting attention of the professors. Drones are excluded by the rigid discipline which has been instituted, and the time allowed for the course must be constantly employed, or the cadet loses his position and sinks in the regard of his teachers and companions; and should this fail to correct him, neglect of his duties and studies will bring inevitable disgrace. The course of instruction for the first year and in the fourth class embraces arithmetic, algebra and geometry, English grammar, geography and the French language; for the second year and third class, algebra, geometry, analytical geometry commenced, French, drawing landscape; for the third year and second class, analytical geometry concluded, descriptive geometry, shades, shadows and perspective, surveying, differential and integral calculus, French, Latin, drawing, topography and linear; and for the fourth year and first class, natural philosophy, chemistry, military and civil engineering, tactics, infantry and artillery, Latin, English literature, rhetoric, geography and history. The examination was searching and thorough as far as time would allow, was conducted with fairness and impartiality, the profes-

sor selecting the cadet to be examined, and some member of the board designating the subject, and was generally highly creditable to the cadets, and evinced fidelity on the part of the professors. The board granted diplomas to twenty-four graduates, of whom *S. T. Pendleton* of the county of Campbell, and *J. C. Council* of Norfolk county, were the most distinguished. The diplomas were conferred in public in presence of the governor of the state.

The conduct of the cadets has generally been exemplary; and when it is considered how strictly and rigidly discipline is enforced, how many slight offences are noticed with marks of demerit, and how few are really of a serious character, it is matter of surprise that they stand so high. Many have passed through the entire course without a single mark of demerit, and that too when subjected to reports of officers of every grade, both in the academic and military department. The board express the opinion that the system adopted works well in practice, is admirably adapted to the institution under their supervision, and is calculated to make useful, careful, economical, industrious citizens; that the standard of intellectual attainment is elevated, and that the restraints necessarily imposed lead to virtue and happiness.

As an evidence of the estimation in which graduates of this school are held by the people throughout the state, the board take pleasure in stating the fact that there are constant applications from various parts of the state for young men who have been educated here to become teachers in our best academies and schools, and as instructors in private families. Every state cadet of the present graduating class is already provided with a situation worthy of his acceptance, producing him a decent support, and affording him an opportunity to repay to the state the expense incurred in his education.

The board are prompted by a sense of justice to commend the industry, zeal, and high moral and intellectual character of the professors; but from the peculiar manner in which their instruction is given (not being by lectures, but by a system of special instruction to each), and from the increase of the number of cadets, ranging from one hundred to one hundred and ten annually, they are forced to the conclusion that a further subdivision of labour is necessary, and that it will conduce to the advantage and usefulness of the institute that there should be two additional professors. The duties and responsibilities of the superintendent have become exceedingly onerous, and it is necessary that he should be relieved from a portion of his academic labours to allow more time for a general supervision. It is proposed also to make a new classification and arrangement of the subjects to be taught, so as to relieve to some extent each of the other professors. The present funds of the institution are not sufficient to accomplish this desirable object, but the board strongly recommend the measure to the legislature as worthy of their sanction, and ask an appropriation sufficient to give to each professor, if authorized to be appointed, a salary of \$ 1000 per annum.

Under the act of the last legislature, appropriating the funds for the purpose, a convenient and suitable house has been erected for the superintendent upon the public grounds, into which he has removed his

family, and the house formerly occupied by him has been assigned to the professor of chemistry and tactics, and as soon as the necessary repairs can be made that officer will be located there. The hospital provided for by the same act has not yet been erected, but will be shortly put under contract, and the board are assured that the expenditure will not exceed the appropriation. The laboratory and chemical apparatus will also be speedily provided, and that branch of studies be placed upon a foundation to expand its usefulness and render it efficient.

The report of the superintendent, and the treasurer's statement, hereto annexed, and the report of the committee of finance, based thereon, marked B, will afford a just view of the condition of the fiscal affairs of the institute. The board believe that the expenditures incurred were necessary and have been made with prudence and economy. It will be perceived that the balance estimated to be on hand at the end of the fiscal year, after meeting all liabilities and contingencies, is exceedingly small; but small as it was estimated to be, necessary expenses have been authorized by the board since the report of the committee, absorbing this entire amount. The act of the last general assembly required the board to appoint one cadet from each senatorial district, so as to complete the original design, and give to each portion of the state an equal share of the benefits to be received from the expenditure of the public money. The funds at the disposal of the board have not been sufficient heretofore to justify the appointment of more than twenty-seven state cadets, and they are certainly not sufficient now; but the language of the act of assembly being mandatory, the board have felt constrained to make the appointments, not doubting but that the legislature intend to provide the funds necessary for their support. The additional number of state cadets appointed is five, involving an increased charge of \$560; by their admission the number of pay cadets is reduced five, thus diminishing the income from tuition by \$150; thus requiring a further appropriation of \$710 to carry out the conditions of the law. The board hope that the general assembly will appropriate this sum, so that each district of the state may have its representative here. The benevolent character of this prominent feature of the institute is worthy to be sustained and enlarged. The good it is producing will be found to be an ample remuneration for the expenditure. Unless the appropriation is made the number must be again reduced, and those who will have been brought here under the hope of obtaining the fostering care of the state, will have that hope blighted, and the institute will be compelled to discharge them.

The board have been assiduously engaged in revising and amending the regulations, and have made alterations which are believed important to ensure proper police and discipline. Among other regulations they have made a radical change in the mode of procuring and furnishing the cadets with provisions; by which they believe that better provisions will be furnished, better attendance provided, a strict and more rigid accountability ensured, and with a reduction of expenditure. It is an experiment upon the plan adopted at West Point, with alterations which we hope will be beneficial. If it proves to be less

economical than the system heretofore adopted, it will be abandoned, but there is every reason to believe it highly judicious.

In consideration of the ability and untiring exertions of the superintendent and professors, the amount of property which has been added to that originally owned by the state, by their individual exertions, the buildings erected through the same means, without aid from the state, and the increase of the number of pay cadets, inducing additional labour on their part, the board have thought it expedient to impose an additional fee of \$5 annually upon each pay cadet, which, with interest received from the savings institution in Lexington, on account of the deposit of our funds with that institution, will raise a fund sufficient to increase the salaries of each of the present principal professors two hundred dollars; the board have therefore authorized this increase, and believe that the amount is not more than an equivalent for the services rendered.

According to law, a committee of the board was appointed to examine into the condition of the public arms, and from their report it appears that the executive had detailed the captain of the public guard at Richmond, and the master armorer from the public armory, to overhaul and make a thorough examination of all the public arms at this arsenal. Many of these arms had not been opened for more than twenty years. The committee availed themselves of the opportunity afforded for examination by the opening of the boxes by the officers mentioned, and were pleased to find, with the exception of a few boxes, that the arms were in perfect order. This condition of the arms after so long an interval, proves the admirable location of this place as an arsenal, the extreme dryness of the atmosphere, and the care with which they were originally packed. The whole amount of arms of every description at this arsenal will be ascertained by reference to the report of the committee on that subject accompanying this report, and marked C.

The military exercises of the cadets have been duly attended to. They constitute a beautiful corps of highly disciplined and efficient troops, and would, as soldiers, do honour to any service. They were reviewed by the board, and executed the infantry and artillery drills with great precision, promptness and skill, and the whole appearance of the corps on all military occasions was highly satisfactory.

The board would call the attention of the general assembly to the propriety of enforcing, by disqualifying laws, any state cadet who may not voluntarily discharge the obligation imposed upon him by the terms upon which he receives his education at this institute, namely, that he shall teach two years within the state after leaving the institute, unless released from his obligation by the board. We have already referred to the numerous applications made for our cadets as teachers, and the board are aware of but one solitary instance of a state cadet refusing to fulfil his duty since this regulation was adopted. The board believe it most salutary, and recommend that disqualification for office follow the wilful neglect of such important duty.

The board cannot but refer to the fact that the most parental regard is paid to the morals of the young men educated at this institution.

Sobriety is a striking and exemplary trait in their character, while their social relations suppress all arrogance on the one hand, or servility on the other, from every portion of the cadets. Intolerance in all matters of opinion is excluded from any influence within the institute, and with the exception of the obligation imposed upon the cadets to attend church, in a body, on each sabbath, going to each church in succession, there is no constraint in matters of religious opinion; but it must be remembered that, while no constraint is exercised, a religious influence is at all times pervading the corps, arising from the knowledge that, within the precincts of the institution, there is one spot where the "fire on the altar" never goes out. And it is to this simple fact that the board attribute, in a great degree, the order, discipline, sobriety and attention which prevail among the numerous body of young men whose characters are to shape in a great degree the future destiny of the commonwealth.

In conclusion, the board respectfully recommend this institute to the fostering care of the general assembly. They believe it eminently worthy of patronage. It is one of the best means of diffusing knowledge through the state. The cadets are taken from its four divisions in proportion to their actual population; and every year a number return to these divisions, some of whom are required to teach for two years; all of whom are ready to start in that career of usefulness for which they have been so carefully trained, disciplined in mind and strengthened in body, and prepared to discharge with fidelity all the duties of good citizens in peace, and of faithful, intrepid soldiers in war; trained to respect the laws of the state and obey those in authority; and when in authority themselves, to protect and defend those under their power. It would be well, indeed, if all could enjoy these or similar benefits, that we might have it in our power to boast that there is not a citizen in the land who has arrived at maturity "that cannot read in his native tongue the oracles of his faith and the constitution of his country."

(Signed,)

CORBIN BRAXTON, *Pres't of the Board*,
WM. H. RICHARDSON,
P. ST. GEO. COCKE,
GEO. W. MUNFORD,
P. H. STEENBERGEN,
CHARLES JAMES FAULKNER,
GEORGE W. THOMPSON,
WM. H. TERRILL.

[A.]

REPORT ON STEWARD'S DEPARTMENT.

The committee to whom was referred the steward's department, submit the following report :

That they have made a personal examination of the various offices connected with and properly belonging to the steward's establishment, and find nothing requiring the serious animadversion of the board. The committee suggest, however, that the steward be directed to give a more strict attention to the servants connected with the kitchen, and by his personal superintendence ensure a uniform attention by them to the preparation of the food and cleanliness of the table furniture ; and that the knives, forks, glasses, &c. be constantly kept in good order.

The committee recommend that fly-fans be constructed in the mess hall.

That water, from the fountain in front of the steward's residence be conveyed by leaden pipe to the rear of the house for the use of the kitchen.

The propriety of placing outside venetian shutters to the second story of the steward's residence is suggested.

All which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed,)

GEO. W. THOMPSON,
WM. H. TERRILL,
Committee.

[B.]

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON INSTRUCTION.

The committee to whom was referred the subject of instruction, having had the same under careful consideration, beg leave to report :

That the mode of instruction pursued in the institute is different from that usually adopted in colleges ; being, in our opinion, more efficient and thorough. The instruction is not given by lectures to an entire class, which, whether large or small, does not increase the labours or duties of the professor ; but it is a special instruction to each member of a class, by daily recitation and examination, and by individual explanations, by which additional labour is necessarily imposed upon each professor in proportion to the increase of students attending his classes. The increase of the number of state cadets from twenty, the number with which the institute commenced its operations, to twenty-seven, the number now taught, and the regular increase of the number of pay cadets from ten to an average of seventy-five, as the institution has developed its usefulness, has induced an amount of labour and responsibility upon the superintendent and the faculty which render their situation extremely onerous ; and if con-

tinued must be prejudicial to their health, and render it impossible for them to devote that necessary attention to the instruction of each pupil, which has hitherto characterized their conduct and the system adopted.

It must be borne in mind, that by the law of the last legislature, the board of visitors are required still further to increase the number of state cadets so as to provide one for each senatorial district in the state, and the strong desire on the part of the citizens of the commonwealth to avail themselves of the benefits of the institution still increasing, it becomes absolutely necessary to provide additional instructors. The faculty, and more especially the superintendent, (who, in addition to the responsible and laborious executive duties incident to his station, are in the opinion of your committee overtasked, and should be relieved of a portion of their labours.

In view of these facts and considerations, your committee earnestly call the attention of the board to the necessity of adopting a new classification and division of duties and subjects of instruction. To carry out the views of the superintendent on this subject, as detailed in his annual report, in which we fully concur, it will be necessary to appoint two additional professors, and assign to each appropriate duties. In presenting the necessity for these two professorships, it will be observed that it is not designed to enlarge the present course of instruction, but to provide the instructors which seem to your committee absolutely indispensable to give efficiency to the course already prescribed. We therefore report for the consideration of the board the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That it be recommended to the general assembly to provide by law for the appointment of two additional professors with a salary of \$1000 each per annum.

2. *Resolved*, That if such provision be made, the classification of professors and studies in the institute shall be as follows:

A. A professor of mathematics, embracing arithmetic, algebra, plane and solid geometry, analytical geometry, descriptive geometry, surveying, shades, shadows and perspective, differential and integral calculus.

B. A professor of the Latin and French languages.

C. A professor of English language, including composition and declamation, geography and history.

D. A professor of chemistry, mineralogy, geology, mechanics, optics and astronomy.

E. A professor of civil engineering and architecture, drawing, including pencil, topography and right lined drawing, as well as descriptive geography.

F. A professor of military engineering, infantry and artillery tactics.

3. *Resolved*, That until such provision be made by law, the classification of professors and studies, as at present existing, shall continue

(Signed,)

PHILIP ST. GEORGE COCKE,
CHAS. JAS. FAULKNER,
GEORGE W. MUNFORD,
GEORGE W. THOMPSON,

Committee.

[C.]

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ARMS AND ARSENAL.

The committee appointed to examine the condition of the arsenal and public arms, submit the following report :

Your committee having ascertained that by order of the executive the captain of the public guard, together with the master armorer at Richmond, had been detailed to make a thorough examination of the public arms at this place, availed themselves of the opportunity thus afforded.

They found the arms securely packed in air proof boxes, well arranged in the several departments of the arsenal, and with a few exceptions, in perfect order. There are 1395 boxes containing muskets and bayonets complete ; 48 boxes containing rifles, and three boxes of carbines—each box containing 20 stand of arms.

Making of muskets and bayonets,	27,900
“ rifles, - - -	960
“ carbines, - - -	60

28,920 stand of arms.

There were 145 boxes opened, taken from every part of each apartment of the building, thus enabling us to form an estimate of the condition of the boxes, and they were found in nearly the same excellent condition. Most of these boxes, your committee were informed, have not been opened for twenty years, and yet they exhibited, with the exceptions referred to, perfect freedom from rust. The arms when deposited in the boxes were well oiled.

In addition to the arms in boxes, there have also been collected from the hands of the militia, and deposited in the arsenal, about 300 muskets, which are not in boxes, and are in very bad order, having been in that condition when returned here. These muskets will require thorough overhauling, and for this purpose should be transferred to the armory at Richmond, to be repaired and properly boxed for preservation. In addition to the arms above enumerated, there are in possession of the cadets for the purposes of drill, 58 muskets, 10 carbines and twenty-two swords, the property of the state, and all reported in good order.

Besides the beautiful battery of four pieces of six pounders and two howitzers used by the cadets, there are three brass pieces, six pounders, and seven iron pieces, of which four are four pounders and three six pounders, none of which are mounted, but there are carriages for the four four pounders, and for two of the brass sixes, and two caissons.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed,)

P. H. STEENBERGEN,
G. W. MUNFORD,
CHAS. J. FAULKNER,

Committee.

[D.]

REPORT ON FINANCE.

The committee on the finances of the institute, submit the following report :

That they have carefully examined the treasurer's report, and find it sustained by vouchers and orders from the superintendent, and perfectly correct.

The superintendent in his annual report has correctly stated the fiscal affairs of the institute ; and your committee are happy to find that, after paying every debt for which the institute is in any manner liable, and meeting all the current expenses, there will be at the end of the fiscal year a balance of four hundred and seventy-four dollars and sixty-seven cents.

The receipts and liabilities for the fiscal year, commencing 1st July 1848, and terminating 1st July 1849, may be estimated as follows :

RECEIPTS :

Balance on hand as stated in the treasurer's and quarter master's reports, with the debt from Washington college,	4,461	96
Receipts from tuition fees, - - -	2,000	00
From Literary fund and state appropriation, - - -	8,500	00
From diplomas from graduates, - - -	100	00
	<u>\$</u>	<u>15,061 96</u>

LIABILITIES :

Current expenses, - - -	9,774	00
Debts ascertained and estimated, - - -	4,813	29
Balance on hand 1st July 1849, - - -	474	67
	<u>\$</u>	<u>15,061 96</u>

If, however, the board proceed to the appointment of the additional state cadets, required by the act of the last general assembly, instead of the small balance on hand, there will be an actual deficit of eighty-five dollars and thirty-three cents, which is exhibited thus :

Five state cadets at \$ 112 each, - - -	560	00
Balance on hand, - - -	474	67
	<u>\$</u>	<u>85 33</u>
Deficit, - - -		

As the general assembly, however, have made it mandatory on the board to appoint these cadets, whether there be funds of the institute sufficient for the purpose or not, it is reasonable to suppose that that body intended to make the necessary appropriation for the support of

the additional number. If they do not, it is plain from the condition of our funds, that this additional number must be discharged. There will be, no doubt, appropriations made by the board which may absorb the small balance on hand, leaving nothing for unavoidable occurrences.

For the general and thorough repair of the buildings which must be attended to, to preserve the public property, a much larger appropriation will be required than the funds of the institute will authorize, and it is proper that the attention of the legislature should be called to the subject.

After the present year, when all the debts will have been paid, the annual resources and liabilities (supposing the legislature to make the appropriation for the new state cadets,) may be estimated as follows:

RESOURCES.

Annual state appropriation,	-	-	-	9,060 00
Tuition fees, (contingent,)	-	-	-	2,000 00
For diplomas, (also contingent,)	-	-	-	75 00
				<u>\$11,135 00</u>

LIABILITIES.

Annual current expenses,	-	-	-	-	10,334 00
Balance for appropriations,	-	-	-	-	801 00
					<u>\$11,135 00</u>

All which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed,)

GEO. W. MUNFORD,
P. H. STEENBERGEN,
Committee.

[E.]

REPORT ON QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT.

The committee charged with the inspection of the quartermaster's department have, in obedience to the order of the board, performed that duty, and submit the following report :

That they find nothing in this department requiring special notice, its general condition being in all respects satisfactory. The articles for the use of the cadets are of excellent quality ; they have been purchased on fair and reasonable rates, and are issued at prices only suffi-

cient to indemnify the institute for the costs of the goods. The books are so kept as to exhibit very satisfactorily the accounts between the cadets and the quartermaster's department, and no cadet is permitted to purchase any article without the consent and approbation of the superintendent.

(Signed,)

C. J. FAULKNER,
WM. H. TERRILL.

[F.]

REPORT ON POLICE, DISCIPLINE AND BUILDINGS.

The committee on police, discipline and buildings report :

That the police, as far as they can perceive, is as good as under the disadvantages of defective and badly constructed buildings could be expected.

Discipline.—The board, from its own observation, has probably arrived at a pretty accurate estimate of the state of discipline in the corps of cadets ; but circumstances have disclosed to this committee, what is probably unknown to the board, that at the foundation there lies an unseen, though all powerful moral and religious influence exerted by the superintendent himself, with unceasing paternal care over the cadets, the immediate results of which may be found in the excellent condition of the corps. Its results in time to come may be better imagined than described. We commend this fact to the board as worthy of its special notice.

Buildings.—The principal of these were constructed for the guard of regular soldiers formerly employed at the arsenal. They have been added to from time to time as the increased number of cadets required and the limited funds of the institute permitted. They are not at all adapted in their construction to the accommodation of the cadets, or to the preservation of the necessary discipline and police of the corps. The older portion of the building is at this time greatly in need of extensive repairs ; and it is the decided opinion of this committee, that it would be far more economical, and in every point of view the better course, to commence the reconstruction of the whole of them upon a plan adapted to the purposes of a military academy, whenever the legislature shall think proper to authorize it, than to enter upon the interminable repairs which the present buildings will require.

The buildings have not cost the state one dollar. The whole amount heretofore expended in repairs and construction of new buildings having been derived from the tuition of the pay cadets.

It cannot have escaped the observation of the board that, with all possible care to prevent it, there is at present great risk from fire ; and that if it should occur to any extent, the inevitable destruction of all the buildings, including the arsenal and 30,000 stand of arms stored therein, must ensue.

We therefore recommend that the superintendent be requested to prepare a plan, specification and estimate, exhibiting the proposed improvements, in a form adapted to the specific purposes of a military school; which shall also combine a plan for warming, lighting and ventilation, as well as supplying the same with water, so as to secure superior comfort, economy, safety, discipline and police.

(Signed,)

WM. H. RICHARDSON,
P. ST. GEO. COCKE,
Committee.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE, 1848.

HEAD QUARTERS,
VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE,
June 22, 1848.

SIR,

I have the honour to present herewith a detailed report of the operations of this institution during the last academic year.

COURSE OF INSTRUCTION.

The accompanying reports of the professors, marked F, will exhibit the nature and extent of the course of instruction which has been pursued.

The academic duties of the superintendent have embraced the instruction of the first class in mechanics; the second class in descriptive geometry, shades, shadows and perspective, surveying, analytical geometry, the differential and integral calculi and mechanics; the third class in algebra, geometry and analytical geometry; and the fourth class in arithmetic, algebra and geometry. By the establishment of the fourth class I have been enabled this year to anticipate mechanics in the third year's course, so that hereafter the first class will be relieved from this study, and the time hitherto occupied by it may now be devoted to other subjects. The course of mathematics as now arranged will be distributed among the various classes as follows:

The fourth class commences arithmetic, which it completes, and progresses as far as equations of the second degree in algebra, and through the fourth book of Legendre's geometry the first year. The third class commences equations of the second degree in algebra, and the fifth book of geometry, completes both of these subjects and analytical geometry the second year. The second class goes through in order, descriptive geometry, shades, shadows and perspective, surveying, the differential and integral calculi and mechanics, during the third year.

In the mathematical department, I have been assisted by Lt. J. C. Marr, (who has also acted as assistant instructor of tactics,) and by cadets S. T. Pendleton and J. C. Council of the first class; and take pleasure in bearing testimony to the zeal and fidelity with which they have discharged their duties.

In addition to instruction in mathematics, the superintendent has had in charge the exercises of declamation and composition of the second, third and fourth classes; and on the sabbath has taught the first class in the evidences of christianity, and the second class in the Bible. The third and fourth classes have received similar sabbath instruction from the professor of languages.

I would take this occasion to invite the attention of the board to a review of the course of instruction. The board must be satisfied from observation, as well as from the reports of the professors, that the number of instructors is too small for the amount and variety of duty required of them. The department of languages embraces the Latin, French and English languages, a course of rhetoric and English literature, while the professor very properly recommends the introduction of the study of American history, at least. Added to these should be a regular system of composition and declamation; so that it must be manifest that the duties now devolved upon this chair, in connexion with others, which it would be desirable to have embraced in it, are more than can be properly discharged by a single professor.

In the physical department, the professor, besides discharging the arduous and responsible duties of instructor of tactics and commandant of cadets, teaches chemistry, optics and astronomy; and expects during the next year to add to these geology and mineralogy. I do not hesitate to say that justice to this officer, as well as to the institute demands a subdivision of his duties. The professor of engineering and drawing reports a corresponding pressure in the duties of his department, from the introduction of a course of civil architecture.

In this state of things, I renew the recommendation contained in my report of 1842, which has only been in part carried out, for the establishment of two additional professorships, as soon as the legislature shall provide the means for their support. One of these professorships might embrace the course of English, including composition and declamation, geography and history; and thus relieve the professor of languages and the professor of engineering from a portion of the duties with which they are now charged. The other should embrace tactics and military engineering; the officer in charge of these studies being at the same time commandant of cadets. This would relieve the professor of physical sciences of much heavy labour, while the professor of civil engineering and drawing would have full occupation in the course which his department would then embrace.

The following programme will exhibit the classification of studies under this arrangement:

1. *Mathematics*, embracing *arithmetic*, *algebra*, *plane* and *solid geometry*, *analytical geometry*, *descriptive geometry*, *surveying*, *shades, shadows* and *perspective*, *differential* and *integral calculi*.
2. *Latin* and *French* languages.

3. *English language, including composition and declamation, geography and history.*

4. *Chemistry, mineralogy, geology, mechanics, optics and astronomy.*

5. *Civil engineering and architecture, drawing, including pencil, topography, and right lined drawing as well as descriptive geography.*

6. *Military engineering, infantry and artillery tactics.*

I dwell upon this subject because the "normal" character of this institution, by which we are required to qualify teachers for the schools of the state, demands great care that the system we pursue shall be such as to produce not only good *scholars* but good *teachers*. This fact has in a great degree controlled our system of instruction, the chief peculiarity and excellence of which consist in the subdivision of each class into small sections, and the regular examination of each pupil at short intervals. The class reports of the professors will shew that each cadet is examined four days out of every five. The superiority of this method of instruction is manifest, but it involves great labour, and a proportionate increase of instructors. The beneficial effects of this system are apparent in the greatly increased demand for our teachers. In my last semi-annual report I stated that thirty-three of our graduates were at that time engaged in the duty of instruction. It gives me pleasure now to add that every state cadet of the present graduating class is already engaged *in advance* as teachers in the different sections of the state, and will be at work by the 1st September next. This is not all; applications for more teachers are still on file; and with such encouraging offers, that some of the pay graduates of this year will engage, as others have before done, in teaching.

FINANCES.

The reports of the treasurer and quartermaster, and a statement which I have carefully prepared from them, marked A, will present a complete view of the condition of our finances. The treasurer reports a balance to the credit of the institute of \$2945 86, which sum should be diminished by bad debts reported last year, of \$482 64, leaving a balance of \$2463 22. This balance is augmented by an available balance to the credit of the quartermaster, as per statement B, of \$1680 74, and a debt from Washington college of \$300, with interest, due 1st July 1847, making the total available credit of the institute \$4461 96. The estimate of receipts and expenditures for the next fiscal year, commencing 1st July 1848, shews that, after supporting the institute to the 1st July 1849, and paying all outstanding claims against it, there will be a nett balance to the credit of the institute (should no new liabilities be incurred), of \$474 67; the present and accruing means to the 1st January next enabling us at the same time to maintain the institute for the next half year.

This estimate embraces a full settlement of all pre-existing claims against the institute for the erection of the superintendent's house, as well as the cost of a hospital, for which purposes \$4500 were appropriated by the last legislature.

The debt due Crawford and Pole for the erection of the new barracks, although not finally closed, will be fully met by the claim against Washington college, previously transferred to them, and upon which the board, through its finance committee, made a report last year. This report, as was directed, has been communicated to the trustees of Washington college, and definite action will be taken upon it during the present week.

QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT.

In connexion with the fiscal affairs of the institute, the attention of the board is specially directed to the important operations of the quartermaster's department. This department is charged with the purchase and issue of all the supplies of clothing, books, fuel, &c. for the use of the cadets, involving an accountability of about \$14,000. The articles furnished are of the best quality that I could procure, and they have been sold at the low advance previously established by the board. These rates are found sufficiently high to secure the institute from loss without making this department a source of revenue. Statement A shows the operation of the tailor's branch of this department. It will be seen that by the rate of prices heretofore established, the quartermaster has paid \$120 81 more to the tailor than he has received for the making and mending of clothes. While this result shows the necessity of making a small increase to the charges for making and mending of clothing, it demonstrates conclusively the superior excellence of the material and workmanship in this department. The single article of mending cost the corps of cadets, numbering only sixty in 1844 before the establishment of the tailor's department, \$300. The cost of mending for 110 cadets last year was but \$122 27. The expense of making has been reduced in a corresponding degree, so that the average amount of clothing furnished to the cadets has fallen within the estimate made to the cadet in his letter of appointment. A vacancy having occurred in the office of quartermaster, by the resignation of Lt. W. H. Richardson, the duties of this office have been discharged since 1st January by my clerk, Mr. C. B. Williams, jr.

SCHOLARSHIPS, &c.

The act of the general assembly of March 7, 1848, authorizes the board of visitors to establish scholarships in the institute. It will be the duty of the board to examine the provisions of this act; 1st, with a view to prescribe the necessary regulations for the establishment of the scholarships; and 2d, to see how far the present means of the institute are insufficient to carry out the provisions of the 6th and 7th sections of this act. Should the rights of individuals be sufficiently secured by the sections of the bill respecting scholarships, I have no doubt many public spirited individuals in the state will gladly avail themselves of its provisions, as soon as the necessary regulations are established by the board. The 6th section requires the board to admit at least one cadet from each senatorial district in the state. All

though this section does not specify it, it may be presumed from the 7th section that the intention of the legislature was to admit at least one state cadet from each senatorial district. If this be the case, the means of the institute are manifestly insufficient for the purpose, and the requirement becomes altogether impracticable. An examination of statement (A 3,) shews that the total annual revenue of the institute is but \$ 10,575, while the annual current expenses are \$ 9774, leaving a surplus for contingent expenses of but \$ 801. The sum of \$ 10,575 embraces two contingent items amounting to \$ 2075, upon which we cannot rely for any permanent charge, and for a variation in which we have now a surplus of but \$ 800 annually. This contingent income has been heretofore devoted to the support of seven state cadets, and to the necessary repairs and improvements which the imperfect accommodations of the institute made indispensable. Withdraw this sum and the income of the institute is but \$ 8500, a sum which will not justify a permanent charge of more than twenty state cadets upon the present basis. The means of the institute have always been insufficient for the maintenance of the system of instruction, police and discipline which such an institution as this should possess; and it seems to be important, before any new charge is imposed upon our existing means, that the board should avail themselves of the earliest opportunity to place the salaries of the professors upon the same standing as are given in the other institutions of the state, and which are now barely sufficient for their support.

PHILOSOPHICAL APPARATUS.

It will be necessary for the board to take order also for the purchase of the philosophical and chemical apparatus, as prescribed by the provisions of the act of March 30th, 1848. The valuable donation of minerals, numbering about 2000 choice specimens, presented to the institute in the name of John H. Cocke jr., Esq., has been received and deposited in a suitable cabinet which has been erected in the philosophical rooms.

CADETS' COMMONS.

In obedience to the order of the board of the last year, I have prepared a system of regulations for the government of the cadet commons upon the same principle as is now adopted in the supplies of clothing. They will require the approval of the board before they can go into effect.

LIBRARY.

The report of the librarian will shew the condition of the library. Except for the supply of books of reference in the departments of physics and engineering, no purchase of books has been made during the past year, the fund appropriated for this object being exhausted. A valuable present from P. St. G. Cocke, Esq. of a French magazine,

Point du Jour, containing 29 volumes, has been received and deposited in the library; also a copy of the reports, specifications, &c. of the public works of the U. States, by E. H. Gill, Esq. civil engineer

GYMNASIUM AND BATHHOUSE.

The order of the board in reference to a gymnasium and bath, has been in a measure carried out. The apparatus for the former, and suitable bathing tubs, have been purchased. It is designed to arrange the lower room of the arsenal for a gymnasium, and to set apart one of the rooms of the hospital for the baths.

DISCIPLINE AND POLICE.

The discipline and police of barracks, at all times a matter of prime consideration, have received every attention in my power. The barrack yard has been paved, and the cadets' room thoroughly repaired and policed. It is my duty in this connexion to call the special attention of the board to the condition of the barracks; and I am satisfied a careful inspection will convince them of the necessity of recommending to the legislature the erection of new buildings for quarters for the cadets. When the first act organizing the institute was passed in March 1837, the board reported against the practicability of putting the institute into operation, unless an appropriation were made for the repairs of the dilapidated buildings which they found here. In 1839 the board again met, and although the same difficulties existed, the institution was organized, and the cadets were quartered in the rooms which the adjutant general had repeatedly before pronounced unfit for service. Such repairs as the means of the institute would allow, and such additional temporary accommodations as the tuition fees of the pay cadets would provide, have been made from time to time; but the wear and tear of these have increased to such a degree, that it is not only impossible to secure a good police, but the comfort of the cadets cannot be properly secured in the present buildings. In addition to these facts, we have no room larger than 15 by 25 feet in which to assemble the cadets, and are dependent upon the society of cadets for the conveniences attendant upon our annual public examinations. The state has never appropriated one dollar for the repairs of the old barracks, or the erection of the new.

I do not urge this recommendation except from the conviction that the operations of the institute for the last nine years have fully met the public expectations, and that public sentiment has clearly indicated that this institution is to become a permanent part of the system of popular education for the state. If this be so, no delay should be allowed in carrying this recommendation into immediate execution; for I am satisfied that the accommodations furnished for our cadets are far inferior as respects convenience and comforts to the most ordinary barracks now provided for the common soldier of the army.

PUBLIC ARMS.

Every possible attention has been paid to the preservation and protection of the public arms on deposit at this arsenal, and it is believed they will be found in their customary good condition. The battery of artillery received from the U. S. government last summer, having been found too heavy for the use of cadets, was returned in obedience to orders received from the adjutant general. This officer, after much personal exertion, succeeded in getting an order from the secretary of war for the outfit for a complete battery of four six pounder field pieces, and two twelve pounder howitzers, to be made in conformity to our own instructions. This battery has just arrived, and is one of the most beautiful specimens of workmanship to be found in the service. The institute is under great obligation to the adjutant general for the zeal with which he has laboured to secure this valuable appendage to our military instruction, and to the secretary of war, and especially to major R. L. Baker, U. S. ordnance corps, for the prompt and liberal manner in which they have responded to the requisition for it.

We still need a few six pounder balls and as many shells for occasional cadet practice.

REGULATIONS.

The last edition of the regulations being nearly exhausted, it is necessary for the board to take order with reference to publishing a new edition. The present, therefore, is a fit opportunity to make such modifications in the regulations as experience may shew to be necessary.

EXAMINATION OF THE CLASSES.

I am enabled at this time to report that the several classes of cadets are now prepared to undergo the usual examination in the presence of the board, and to express the desire in the name of the faculty, that it will be conducted by the board in such manner as shall most fully test the merit of the cadets, and the fidelity with which our own duties have been discharged.

From the nature of things it cannot be expected, in general, that all the members will be competent to perform the duties of *examiners* in all the subjects which may be brought before them. While they may not be the less competent to judge of the merits and proficiency of the cadets, long disuse in the details of science has made it necessary that they should impose this duty in a great degree upon the faculty. Still it is important that the examination should be thorough, and as far as practicable, secured against the prejudice or partiality of the professor. Hence, I have thought it proper to recommend to the board to invite at each annual meeting, two members of the graduating classes, who have been distinguished for their scholarship, to act in conjunction with the faculty, as public examiners. The graduates of the institute have a permanent interest that the grade of scholarship is not reduced, While this step will secure in a great degree the end designed, it will operate as a stimulant to our graduates to retain, and make progress in, the various branches of the arts and sciences

which they have here acquired. This recommendation derives authority from the English universities.

Cadet Robert A. Gray of the graduating class of 1847, having been found deficient in his studies at the last examination (annual), returned to the institute in September last, and having prosecuted his studies with diligence until January, was then examined by the faculty, and is now entitled to a diploma in obedience to the instructions given by the board.

I have thus presented, as briefly as possible, the operations of the institute for the past year, accompanied with such suggestions, as in my opinion seem necessary to enable it to meet to the best advantage the high destiny to which it has been called. When we trace the history of the institute since its organization in 1839, it is gratifying to contemplate what has been accomplished. The duty of a guard to the public arms, then performed by a band of hired soldiers, was transferred without any additional charge to the state, to a corps of young Virginians. In lieu of all pecuniary compensation, an educational basis was given to the new establishment, which has been expanded from year to year, by the force of public sentiment, until now it seems as if upon the *Virginia Military Institute* had devolved a conspicuous part in the great work of reforming the elementary education of the state. In this work she is now actively engaged, not by attempting to introduce some new *theory* of popular education; but by the silent and certain influence resulting from the annual distribution of a corps of well trained *native* teachers among our people. We see this influence in the material which is annually seeking admission to the benefits of the institute. We see it again in the increasing demand for more and more teachers; and we may now anticipate what it will be when some twenty years have passed, and the system, now only partially introduced, shall have reached every county and every neighbourhood in the state. And what is this great work costing the state? Our annual appropriation is but \$8500, \$6000 of which sum is chargeable to the expense of a public guard, leaving \$2500 as the entire annual charge to the state of Virginia, for the immense educational benefits which this institution is now conferring. But this is not all. Of this sum, \$2000 are returned to the state from the tuition fees of the pay cadets; this fund enabling us to increase the number of state pupils, and to provide the necessary accommodations for them; making the total actual annual charge to the state but \$500 annually! We may confidently appeal to the records of any state to exhibit an equal amount of public good with so small an amount of public expenditure.

Commending all the interests of the institution to the fostering care of the board,

I am, Sir,

Most respectfully,

FRANCIS H. SMITH,
Sup't V. M. I.

Gen. CORBIN BRAXTON,

Pres. Board of Vis. V. M. Inst.

[A.]

STATEMENT

Exhibiting the Condition of the Finances of the Virginia Military Institute, June 1848, and Estimate for 1848-9.

he institute stands credited with balance on hand,			
as per treasurer's report, June 1848,	-	2,945	86
less bad debts, reported June 1847,	-	482	64
			<u>2,463 22</u>
Also with available balance to the credit of quartermaster, as per statement B,	-	-	1,680 74
Also with a debt due from Washington college,	-	-	318 00
Available balance to the credit of the V. M. I. June 1848,	-		<u>\$ 4,461 96</u>

Estimate of Receipts and Liabilities from July 1, 1848, to July 1, 1849.

R.	RECEIPTS.	LIABILITIES.	DR.
Available balance on hand,	- 4,461 96	Current expenses, as per statement (1,) - - -	9,774 00
tuition fees, say - -	2,000 00	Due J. G. Pole, - - -	1,615 94
Literary fund appropriation, - -	1,500 00	" Rob. White, - - -	666 03
Annual state " - -	7,000 00	" H. M. Estill, - - -	131 32
Diplomas for graduates, say 100 00		" S. Charlton, (estimated,) - -	150 00
		" J. Leech and Figgatt, - -	150 00
		" S. M'D. Moore, - -	100 00
		" for hospital, - -	1,000 00
		" Lexington savings bank, - -	1,000 00
		Balance on hand July 1, 1848,	474 67
	<u>\$ 15,061 96</u>		<u>\$ 15,061 96</u>

E. E.

FRANCIS H. SMITH,
Sup't V. M. I.

[1.]

Estimated Annual Current Expenses Virginia Military Institute.

Board, washing, fuel, lights, &c. of 27 state cadets, at \$112 each,	3,024 00
Salary of superintendent, - - -	1,800 00
of professor of languages, - - -	1,000 00
of professor of chemistry and com't of cadets, - - -	1,000 00
of professor of engineering and drawing, - - -	1,000 00
of two assistant professors, at \$ 400 each, - - -	800 00
of two cadet professors, at \$ 50 each, - - -	100 00
of surgeon, - - -	50 00
Fire of musicians and servants, - - -	500 00
Contingencies, - - -	500 00
	<u>\$ 9,774 00</u>

[2.]

Estimated Annual Expenses for a State Cadet to the Institute

Board for average period of 10½ months, at \$ 7 50, - -	78 75
Washing do. do. 1 25, - -	13 12½
Fuel, lights, books, &c. - - - -	20 12½
	<u>\$ 112 00</u>

[3.]

Statement of Annual Resources and Liabilities of V. M. Institute

RESOURCES.		LIABILITIES.	
Annual state appropriation, -	8,500 00	Annual current expenses, (1,) -	9,774
Tuition fees, (contingent,) -	2,000 00	Balance for appropriation, -	801
Diplomas, - - -	75 00		
	<u>\$ 10,575 00</u>		<u>\$ 10,575</u>

[B.]

STATEMENT

*Exhibiting the Condition of the Quartermaster Department,
Virginia Military Institute, June 1848.*

CR.

This department stands credited with the nett value of available property on hand, as per quartermaster's inventory, marked C, all of which will be in requisition during the next year, - 5,097 50

DR.

This department stands charged with the following claims against it, as per accompanying bills:

Due Davies & Jones, New York,	-	320 56
Wiley & Putnam, "	-	259 90
W. H. Cary & Co. "	-	36 50
Wilcox, Maris & Co. Philadelphia,		420 86
T. P. James, "		164 96
Thomas, Cowperthwait & Co. "		674 74
W. H. Horsstmann & Sons, "		37 50
C. J. Du Pont & Co. Wilmington,		309 26
F. W. Seabury, Norfolk,		470 00
R. & W. Robinson, Attleboro',		215 83
Webb, Bacon & Co. Richmond,		234 10
Alex. DuVal, "		25 14
Joseph Tyrer, "		26 00
J. L. Deaver, Lexington,		71 25
Outstanding debts, (Lexington, estimated,)		150 00
		<u>3,416 50</u>

Nett available balance to credit of quartermaster dep. June 1848, \$ 1,680 00

[C.]

STATEMENT

showing the Operations of the Tailor's Department V. M. Institute for the year commencing July 1847, and ending July 1848.

DETAILED STATEMENT OF TAILOR'S WORK FOR 1847-8.

	Un. Coats.	Sum. Pants.	W. Pants.	Over Coats.	Vests.	Jackets.	Repairing.
July, - - -	27	49	17	-	-	11	12 14
August, - - -	6	78	1	-	-	24	4 86
September, - - -	19	11	-	-	-	-	3 17
October, - - -	11	-	65	-	-	-	7 39
November, - - -	11	-	19	6	5	-	5 47
December, - - -	9	-	19	15	-	-	4 87
January, - - -	8	-	29	-	1	-	4 00
February, - - -	21	-	9	3	-	-	6 71
March, - - -	13	-	4	-	-	-	8 29
April, - - -	2	49	-	-	-	-	59 88
May and June, - - -	43	110	27	-	-	-	10 44
	170	297	190	24	6	35	\$ 127 22

Payments to Tailor 1847-8.

ct. 1st—To quarter's salary to date,	-	-	-	345 00
an. 1st—To “ “	-	-	-	377 53
pr. 1st—To “ “	-	-	-	341 25
uly 1st—To “ “	-	-	-	337 50
				<u>\$ 1,401 28</u>

Receipts from Tailor.

70 cadet coats,	at \$ 3 50,	-	-	-	595 00
97 pair summer pants,	at 0 75,	-	-	-	222 75
90 “ winter “	at 1 00,	-	-	-	190 00
24 cadet over coats,	at 3 50,	-	-	-	84 00
6 “ vests,	at 1 50,	-	-	-	9 00
35 fatigue jackets,	at 1 50,	-	-	-	52 50
ending and altering,	-	-	-	-	127 22

Total receipts from tailor's department to July 1st, 1848, \$ 1,280 47

RECAPITULATION.

total payments to tailor for year ending July 1, 1848,	-	1,401 28
“ receipts from “ “ “	-	1,280 47
Total loss in tailor's department,		<u>\$ 120 81</u>

Standing of the Cadets of the Virginia Military Institute.

JULY 1848.

FIRST CLASS—GRADUATES.

General merit.	NAMES.	COUNTIES.	TOTAL.
*1	S. T. Pendleton, - -	Campbell, - -	1986
*2	J. C. Councill, - -	Norfolk, - -	1958.5
3	J. M. Cary, - -	Greenbrier, - -	1941
4	C. V. Winfree, - -	Campbell, - -	1934.5
5	C. A. Derby, - -	Dinwiddie, - -	1932
6	A. L. Rives, - -	Albemarle, - -	1930
7	J. R. Jones, - -	Rockingham, - -	1928.5
8	J. T. Ellis, - -	Amherst, - -	1923.5
9	J. P. Beale, - -	Westmoreland, - -	1910
10	R. E. Rodes, - -	Campbell, - -	1887
11	J. S. Gamble, - -	Hardy, - -	1865
12	Charles Carter, - -	Charles City, - -	1859
13	C. W. Cary, - -	Greenbrier, - -	1851.5
14	W. H. Pryor, - -	Dinwiddie, - -	1849.5
15	E. G. Wall, - -	Frederick, - -	1833.5
16	N. Berkeley, - -	Loudoun, - -	1819
17	G. W. Robertson, - -	Warwick, - -	1803.5
18	Jos. Jones, - -	Jefferson, - -	1800
19	N. Tyler, - -	Prince William, - -	1795.5
20	{ J. G. Brodnax, - -	Dinwiddie, - -	1790
	{ F. R. Jones, - -	Frederick, - -	1790
22	B. G. Baldwin, - -	Augusta, - -	1781
23	W. W. Finney, - -	Powhatan, - -	1738.5
24	R. C. Frigg, - -	Montgomery, - -	1624.5

SECOND CLASS.

General merit.	NAMES.		COUNTIES.		TOTAL.
*1	John Lawson,	- -	Richmond City,	- -	1092
*2	J. W. Massie,	- -	Augusta,	- -	1090.5
3	Sam. Garland,	- -	Campbell,	- -	1087.5
4	E. T. Fristoe,	- -	Rappahannock,	- -	1081.5
5	R. Allen,	- -	Bedford,	- -	1078
6	R. Gatewood,	- -	Norfolk City,	- -	1069
7	W. T. Morrissett,	- -	Chesterfield,	- -	1068.5
8	R. Logan,	- -	Halifax,	- -	1060.5
9	R. Pollard,	- -	Albemarle,	- -	1060
10	P. B. Adams,	- -	Harrison,	- -	1048.5
11	T. H. Carter,	- -	Clarke,	- -	1045
12	E. T. Bridges,	- -	Richmond City,	- -	1139.5
13	F. Lackland,	- -	Jefferson,	- -	1038.5
14	K. Otey,	- -	Campbell,	- -	1036
15	J. H. Estes,	- -	Nelson,	- -	1035.5
16	W. Steenbergen,	- -	Mason,	- -	1034
17	W. Byrd,	- -	Frederick,	- -	1024.5
18	J. F. Jordan,	- -	Alleghany,	- -	1019.5
19	F. W. Cox,	- -	Essex,	- -	1008
20	Geo. P. Terrill,	- -	Bath,	- -	1006.5
21	G. Rust,	- -	Loudoun,	- -	993.5
22	B. Ficklin,	- -	Albemarle,	- -	988
23	A. Ranson,	- -	Jefferson,	- -	986
24	C. Bronaugh,	- -	Fairfax,	- -	974
25	J. B. Norville,	- -	Prince William,	- -	940.5
26	Js. W. Baldwin,	- -	Augusta,	- -	939
27	J. H. Poindexter,	- -	Richmond City,	- -	932
28	L. P. Thompson,	- -	Augusta,	- -	911

THIRD CLASS.

General merit.	NAMES.		COUNTIES.		TOTAL.
*1	W. W. Gordon,	- -	Essex,	- -	741.5
*2	P. B. Smith,	- -	Northampton,	- -	738.5
3	C. Denby,	- -	Richmond City,	- -	726.8
4	T. O. Benton,	- -	Nansemond,	- -	722.8
5	J. Brockenbrough,	- -	Richmond,	- -	721.3
6	W. Stalnaker,	- -	Greenbrier,	- -	716.5
7	W. D. Stuart,	- -	Augusta,	- -	715.3
8	H. T. Parrish,	- -	Cumberland,	- -	712.2
9	D. Trueheart,	- -	Richmond City,	- -	706.3
10	J. T. Thomson,	- -	Jefferson,	- -	705.9
11	G. Barker,	- -	Henrico,	- -	703
12	R. R. Smith,	- -	Clarke,	- -	700
13	Ch. Smith,	- -	Northampton,	- -	699.2
14	C. H. Harrison,	- -	Cumberland,	- -	697.7
15	L. Brockenbrough,	- -	Richmond,	- -	696.3
16	Geo. Roberts,	- -	Rappahannock,	- -	693
17	G. Jordan,	- -	Page,	- -	692.8
18	W. Terry,	- -	Bedford,	- -	692
19	W. Littlepage,	- -	King William,	- -	685.2
20	W. H. Urquhart,	- -	Southampton,	- -	682.5
21	A. C. Jones,	- -	Marshall,	- -	670.4
22	W. Booton,	- -	Madison,	- -	658.5
23	J. T. Moss,	- -	Fairfax,	- -	603

FOURTH CLASS.

General merit.	NAMES.		COUNTIES.		TOTAL.
*1	W. A. Harris,	- -	Rockbridge,	- -	692.8
*2	G. H. Caperton,	- -	Monroe,	- -	688
3	Thos. Upshaw,	- -	King & Queen,	- -	687
4	P. C. Gibbs,	- -	Morgan,	- -	681
5	R. Whitehead,	- -	Nansemond,	- -	673
6	R. W. Harrison,	- -	Richmond City,	- -	649.5
7	A. B. Jordan,	- -	Isle of Wight,	- -	643
8	B. F. Mayse,	- -	Wythe,	- -	642
9	J. T. Butts,	- -	Southampton,	- -	635.5
10	A. D. Callcote,	- -	Isle of Wight,	- -	614
11	J. B. Hamilton,	- -	Fayette,	- -	605
12	W. M. Watkins,	- -	Mecklenburg,	- -	569
13	H. W. Fisher,	- -	Norfolk City,	- -	564.5
14	W. Glenn,	- -	Jefferson,	- -	558.5





P E T I T I O N

Of the Cadets of the VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE, praying the General Assembly to make an appropriation to reconstruct and enlarge their Barracks—Also, a Communication from the Superintendent of the VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE on the same subject.

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE, December 30th, 1848.

To the General Assembly of Virginia.

The undersigned, cadets of the Virginia military institute, beg leave to present to the consideration of the general assembly the following petition :

Knowing that there is a bill now before the legislature, asking an appropriation to rebuild the Virginia military institute, we cannot refrain, as a corps, from using whatever influence we may have towards the attainment of an object in which we feel so deeply interested.

We are interested not only as cadets, who look forward with pride to the day when we can hail this noble institution as our *alma mater*, but as citizens of every portion of Virginia, holding ever near our hearts the interest of the state at large.

We believe it to be an undeniable fact, that the Virginia military institute is now doing as much for the cause of education in Virginia, as any other institution in the state, and yet, comparatively, how small the assistance received from the state. It is true our annual subsidy is liberal and perhaps quite sufficient for the *support* of the institution ; but up to the present time, scarcely any appropriation has been made with a view of providing comfortable accommodations for the cadets. With the exception of a few additions, our quarters are but little better than the old barracks formerly occupied by the guard of soldiers.

The establishment of an institution on a system like ours, was, in a great degree an experiment, hence the legislature could not be expected to vote a large appropriation, whilst its ultimate success remained in uncertainty.

But the experiment has been tried in these old barracks and has proved successful beyond the expectations of its warmest friends. We come now, supported by these circumstances, asking that the state will provide us with buildings consonant to our merits ; by which, not only will the facilities of the institution, for conferring benefits on the commonwealth be enlarged, but that the future welfare of the institution itself may be established on a firmer basis.

No one can well appreciate the inconveniences that result from being crowded, four cadets in one room sixteen feet square, except those who have experienced them.

It not only interposes a serious obstacle in the way of prosecuting our studies successfully, but the confusion, disorder and want of neatness incident mar in no small degree our comfort, and in some measure endanger our health.

But in addition to this, many rooms are so situated that the noise from one may be distinctly heard by four surrounding rooms, and thus one disorderly cadet can interrupt the studies of fifteen around him.

Again, there are no suitable rooms in which to hold the meetings of our literary societies—to this circumstance would we especially ask the consideration of the legislature.

We have now two societies, one of which has a hall, but it is in many ways unsuitable for such a purpose, and at best a very indifferent room. The other society is compelled to convene in a recitation room, without even the necessary conveniences, not to mention the total absence of those decorations with which young men at college are fond of decorating their public halls, and indeed, which are necessary to inspire that lively interest requisite to make such associations improving.

We would, furthermore, beg the attention of the legislature to our want of a public hall, in which we can hold the annual celebration of the twenty-second February and the fourth of July.

Each of the societies at the institute elects annually one of its members to deliver an address on the twenty-second of February. We have generally been indebted to the Baptist congregation in Lexington, for the use of their church on such occasions, but this, if the day is at all favourable, is not large enough to accommodate more than half the spectators usually in attendance.

Finally, our buildings are not sufficiently imposing to give that effect and eclat necessary to a high degree of prosperity. This reason may be regarded as futile, but so long as mankind judge of real merit from external appearances, this fact must ever furnish an obstacle to our complete success. We deem it unnecessary to depict to you the present dilapidated condition of barracks, as that was probably more ably dwelt upon by the board of visitors in their last report, suffice it to say however, that even while we are framing this petition, many of the rooms are so flooded with water by the recent rains as to render them almost uninhabitable.

We earnestly hope that the legislature will not reject the bill as now presented. No substitution could remedy the evil; no appropriations for additions or repairs would be attended with real benefits. The form and plan of the present buildings, apart from their decaying condition, will not admit of being remodelled.

They were originally designed as barracks for soldiers alone, and can never be so reformed as to combine the advantages of barracks and also suitable accommodations for young men, whose business it is, in addition to their military duties, to prosecute a course of studies.

We have thought proper, in the form of a petition, to lay before you these facts, hoping that they may have some influence in securing the appropriation.

Most respectfully submitted.

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE,
December 30, 1848.

JAMES G. PAXTON, Esq.

House of Delegates.

DEAR SIR,

It gives me pleasure to respond to your enquiry relative to the bill now before the legislature, appropriating a sum of money for the purpose of re-building the barracks of the institute.

The preamble of the bill presents three grounds upon which this appropriation is based: 1. The insufficiency of the present accommodations. 2. Their want of proper ventilation. 3. The insecurity of the public property on account of the risk from fire.

1. The insufficiency of our present buildings is made manifest, when I state, that our cadets have been crowded together with four and five studying and sleeping in the same room, the size of the rooms being 15 by 16 feet. Such a state of things is not only unfavourable to health, but is very prejudicial to habits of study or to discipline. Besides, with all this crowded condition of our barracks, we cannot accommodate much more than the half of those who are seeking admission. I have now upon file a larger number of applicants, for appointment next June, than there will be vacancies to fill.

2. The defective ventilation results, in part, from the form of the buildings, and in part from the limited court within. The sun rarely ever shines upon the interior court, from the interposition of the surrounding buildings.

3. Our liability to fire may be conceived, when I state that we have 50 wood fires burning day and night. With all the precautions which we can adopt, by a night guard and keeping a supply of water near to hand, we are in constant apprehension from the many accidents to which so extensive a building is subject. The value of the state's property on deposit here, is more than \$350,000—an insurance upon which, could not be effected at less than 1 per cent.—thus involving an annual charge of \$3500. The design of the new building contemplates a *fireproof* house, with arrangements for warming by properly constructed furnaces.

The views expressed above, will shew that the existing inconveniences and dangers cannot be removed by a repair of our present building. In addition, I may say, that when the institute went into operation, there were but four rooms for the accommodation of the cadets. The cadets were crowded together, with eight in a room. Not one dollar has ever been appropriated by the state for the increase of these accommodations; but from the tuition fees of the pay cadets, the institute has itself erected temporary and very imperfect buildings, to meet the pressing demands for admission. Hence, economy has been consulted more than comfort, for it has been an inflexible principle in this institution, *never to assume a pecuniary responsibility beyond its ability promptly to redeem.* To repair these ill-constructed buildings then, so as to remove the inconveniences and dangers complained of, would involve a charge nearly equal to that for a reconstruction. Besides, the present accommodations are insufficient;

and if the present buildings were retained, a *detached* barrack would have to be erected, thus deeply affecting our discipline, and unduly and unnecessarily augmenting the duties of the guard. The present barracks could not be safely warmed with hot air, from the want of basement and brick partition walls. As a question of economy, a saving of \$ 1000 annually, would result from the substitution of hot air furnaces and solar gas, for the system of heating and lighting now used.

I forbear to enlarge upon the minor considerations which might be presented, in support of the appropriation contemplated by the bill before the house. It is unnecessary. The claims of the institute to the liberal support of the state, are admitted by all. Not one word of censure or complaint is heard from any quarter. It is discharging a noble work for the state—a work never contemplated in its inception, but happily developed in its progress—in sending out annually to the different quarters of the state, a corps of well trained *native* teachers. And at what cost? Look at the last report of the visitors and superintendent, and compare the results there exhibited with those of the normal schools of Massachusetts and New York. The state normal school at Albany costs \$ 10,000 a year, the necessary buildings being provided by the City of Albany. The pupils, too, bear their own expenses, except a small appropriation of from \$ 8 to \$ 12 towards defraying their travelling expenses. The Massachusetts schools cost nearly as much. And here, without many of the facilities possessed in either of these states, we are distributing annually an equal proportion of teachers, at a charge to the state of but \$ 500 a year!—the entire appropriation for our outfit in procuring a library, philosophical apparatus, superintendent's quarters, hospital and mess-house, not exceeding \$ 14,000. The neat academy in the City of Norfolk, now under the successful superintendence of one of our teachers, with 120 pupils, cost \$ 12,000.

We only ask for the buildings necessary to accommodate *comfortably* those who are willing to pay the expense of their own education; and who, after graduation, will, in many instances, serve the state as teachers. It has always seemed to me as the strongest evidence of the popularity of this school, that men whose means could command the advantages of any institution in this country for their sons, are willing to subject them to the privations existing here, to secure the benefits of our system.

The accompanying memorial has just been placed into my hands. I take the liberty to transmit it to you, and request that it may have such direction given to it as you may think proper. It comes from the cadets, and although wanting the formality of such documents, it forcibly and *feelingly* urges considerations which may be worthy of the attention of the general assembly.

With great respect, I am,

FRANCIS H. SMITH.

